Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-01 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /116 W

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R 010615Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6833 INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS AMEMBASSY VIENNA AMCONSUL MEDAN AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CONFIDENTIAL JAKARTA 2560

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG OPEC PFOR ID

SUBJ: SUHARTO NOT TO ATTEND OPEC CONFERENCE

REF: MATZ MEMCON FEBRUARY 14, 1975

1. ACCORDING MARCH 1 JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS,
PRESIDENT SUHARTO WILL NOT ATTEND OPEC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
IN ALGIERS MARCH 4-6. SUHARTO WILL BE REPRESENTED AT
CONFERENCE BY FONMIN ADAM MALIK WHO WILL LEAD GOI
DELEGATION CONSISTING OF MINISTER FOR ECONOMY WIDJOJO
NITISASTRO; MINISTER OF MINING MOH SADLI; PERTAMINA(STATE OIL
COMPANY) DIRECTOR LT GEN DR IBNU SUTOWO; FONDEPT'S DIRGEN
FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS; DR B S ARIFIN, PRESIDENTIAL
ADVISER LT GEN ALI MURTOPO: INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR
TO AUSTRIA ABDULLAH KAMIL; AND AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA
SOEMARMAN.

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2.ACCORDING OFFICIAL EXPLANATION, REASON FOR SUHARTO'S NON-

ATTENDANCE IS THAT VICE PRESIDENT HAMENKU BUWONO IX IS STILL IN US FOLLOWING RECENT MEDICAL TREATMENT. REAL REASON IS PROBABLY SUHARTO'S DESIRE TO AVOID CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH RADICAL ARAB LEADERS. IN THIS CONNECTON, US REPRESENTATIVE OF PERTAMINA GEORGE EBNSON TOLD EMBOFF FEB 28 THAT PERTAMINA PRESIDENT IBNU SUTOWO HAD STRONGLY URGED SUHARTO NOT TO ATTEND SUMMIT, SINCE ASSOCIATION WITH RADICAL ARABS IN OPEC GROUP MIGHT HARM SUHARTO'SIMAGE IN US EYES. MINISTER OF MINES SADLI EARLIER TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 14 THAT MALIK HAD ALSO COUNSELLED SUHARTO AGAINST ATTENDING SINCE SUMMIT WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING. ON OTHER HAND, SADLI SAID MURTOPO HAD URGED SUHARTO TO ATTEND TO GET BETTER FEEL FOR OPEC, ESTABLISH CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH CONSERVATIVE OPEC COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND NIGERIA AND THEREFORE IMPROVE CHANCES FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS. SADLI SUPPORTED MURTOPO VIEW, BUT DID NOT ADVISE PRESIDENT (SEE REF MEMCON).

3. PRESENCE OF LEADING GOI ECONOMIC MINISTER AND TECHNOCRAT WIDJOJO ON OPEC DELEGATION IS INTERESTING. WIDJOJO HAS NOT PREVIUSLY ATTENDED OPEC MEETINGS OR BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN GOI OPEC OR OIL PRICE POLICY. NEWSOM

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